

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A jacket tube comprising ~~[made of]~~ synthetically produced quartz glass, said jacket tube being made as a semi-finished product configured to be used for producing an outer cladding glass layer of an optical fiber, wherein ~~[characterized in that]~~ the quartz glass has a content of metastable OH groups of less than 0.05 wt ppm and a content of anneal-stable OH groups of at least 0.05 wt ppm.
2. (currently amended) The jacket tube according to claim 1, wherein ~~[characterized in that]~~ the quartz glass has a content of metastable OH groups of less than 0.01 wt ppm.
3. (currently amended) The jacket tube according to claim 1 ~~[or 2]~~, wherein ~~[characterized in that]~~ the quartz glass has a content of anneal-stable OH groups of not more than 5 wt ppm.
4. (currently amended) The jacket tube according to claim 3, wherein ~~[characterized in that]~~ the quartz glass has a content of anneal-stable OH groups of not more than 1 wt ppm.
5. (currently amended) The jacket tube according to claim 3, wherein ~~[characterized in that]~~ the quartz glass has a content of anneal-stable OH groups of not more than 0.5 wt ppm.

6. (currently amended) The jacket tube according to claim 1 [~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~], wherein [~~characterized in that~~] the quartz glass has a content of anneal-stable OH groups of at least 0.1 wt ppm.

7. (currently amended) The jacket tube according to claim 6, wherein [~~characterized in that~~] the quartz glass has a content of anneal-stable OH groups of at least 0.3 wt ppm.

8. (currently amended) The jacket tube according to claim 1 [~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~], wherein [~~characterized in that~~] it has a ratio of outer diameter to inner diameter in the range between 2 and 8, preferably between 4 and 6.

9. (currently amended) An optical fiber comprising a core having a diameter d_K and a first cladding region cladding the core and having an outer diameter d_M , and a second cladding region cladding the first cladding region, the ratio of d_M/d_K being at least 2.5, wherein [~~characterized in that~~] the second cladding region consists of synthetic quartz glass obtained by elongation of a jacket tube according to claim 1 [~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~].